

APRIL 1986

TAIG

TWIN CITIES ATARI INTEREST GROUP

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Articles should be submitted in standard text files (Atari Writer, Hometext, Speedscript) or in Letter Perfect format.

If you don't own a wordprocessor, you can enter an article into BASIC using REM statements. Or, send legibly written or typed text (make any schematics legible also, we can't reprint what we can't read) to

Cory Johnson 1835 Shadyview Circle, Plymouth, MN. 55447

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Articles may also be dropped off at

Wizard's Work 18th and 36th, New Hope, MN.

If you wish, you can also upload your article to the BBS. Leave a message to the sysop stating that the upload was an article. The BBS number is 473-2897

DEADLINE

Deadline for submission is the 10th of the month. Any articles received after the 10th will be held until the next newsletter.



We're out looking
for articles!!

Alternative To ATARI SC1224 Color Monitor For The 520ST

by Dave Young and Henry Katzmarek

An alternative to using the Atari SC1224 color monitor is now available. A Sony Trinitron TV/ monitor model KV-1311CR has been adapted for use as a 520ST monitor by the authors.

The Sony TV has the advantage of use as a TV, an ATARI800 monitor, a 520ST monitor and as a VCR monitor. The ATARI800 and the 520ST can both be connected to the Sony TV at the same time. The TV has an internal switch which can be used to switch between either computer or the TV at will. Performance of the Sony TV is equal to or better than the Atari monitor. Sound on the TV is considerably better. By using the Sony TV one unit becomes a video center.

A composite cable is needed for the ATARI800. The 520ST requires addition of a 5 volt regulator to the Sony TV and construction of an interface with circuitry to adapt the computer to the Sony TV analog RGB input. All of the parts can be readily purchased except for the connector for the 520ST monitor input. The authors used the Atari SM124 monochrome monitor connector. The connector was removed from the SM124 and replaced with a standard DBxx-subminiature connector. A switch and connector were added to the interface so that both the Atari SM124 and Sony TV could be connected to the 520ST. The switch allows either the SM124 or the Sony TV to be connected to the 520ST without unconnecting one then connecting the other. Changing switch position and rebooting the 520ST will make either functional.

Adaption of the Sony TV for 520ST use requires a few simple parts and a minor modification to the Sony TV. A 5 volt regulator (LM7805CT) is added to the Sony TV to provide 5 volts to the interface circuitry. The interface adaptor circuitry consist of an Exclusive OR (74LS86) and a Line Driver (74S140). The circuitry adapts the 520ST H-sync and V-sync signals to a single Sony TV Composite sync input signal.

The 5 volt regulator is added by removing the Sony TV cover. Eight (8) screws indicated by arrows on the TV cover must be removed, four(4) are behind the tube face - one on each corner of the tube, two (2) at the TV back at the bottom corners and two (2) at RGB connector panel - middle sides of the panel. After removing the TV cover mount the 5 volt regulator to the silver heat sink labeled V OUT. Mount the 5 volt regulator with a small nut and bolt to the out side of the heat sink facing the side of the TV with the 5 volt regulator tabs facing up. A hole in the heat sink on the side of the heat sink can be used. After the 5 volt regulator is secured to the heat sink, bend the middle, ground, tab over and solder to the top edge of the heat sink. Then solder a wire to each of the other two tabs.

Now connect the other end of the wires from the 5 volt regulator tabs to the side panel printed circuit card assembly. Solder the IN tab, the right tab as facing the mounted 5 volt regulator, wire to the +12 volt pin 1, is marked as +12 V, of three (3) pin connector contact B-9 or the six (6) pin connector contact B-6. Next solder the OUT tab, the left tab as facing the mounted 5 volt regulator, wire to an unused pin on the Sony TV analog, thirty-four (34) pin connector contact, the authors have used both pins 1 and 28 for the +5 volts.

Assemble the Sony TV and you are ready to connect the adaptor.

The adaptor and cable build takes the most time. Solder the two integrated circuits on a printed circuit card or use sockets for easy replacement, Radio Shack's experimenter's IC perfboard works. Connect pins 14 of both IC's together and pins 7 of both IC's together. Connect pin 3 of IC 74LS86 to pins 1,2,4 and 5 of IC 74S140.

Assemble the connector removed from the Atari SM124 Monochrome monitor to a cable of ten (10) conductors or more. Be sure to label the ends of the SM124 cable, wires, as to the pin numbers they were attached for reference when attaching a new connector.

Assemble a flat cable to connect the adaptor to the Sony TV RGB analog contact. A standard thirty-four (34) connector flat cable and cable connectors available at Radio Shack can be used.

Rebuild the SM124 Monochrome monitor cable with a new connector. Use the same pin numbers as were identified when the original connector was removed. Make sure that a mating connector for the new one used is available for the the adaptor assembly. A standard DBxx-subminiature, 25 contact connectors were used by the authors.

Assemble the adaptor. Start with a box to mount the adaptor parts in. Radio Shack has a number of usable boxes. Mount the mating connectors for the Sony TV analog RGB flat cable and the Atari SM124 Monochrome monitor cable as desired. Mount a subminiature double pole, double throw (DPDT) switch with center OFF position, also available at Radio Shack, so it is readily accessible. Mounting a 5 volt LED unit to indicate Sony TV connection and adaptor power are available is a nice addition. Mount the IC printed circuit card assembly in the box.

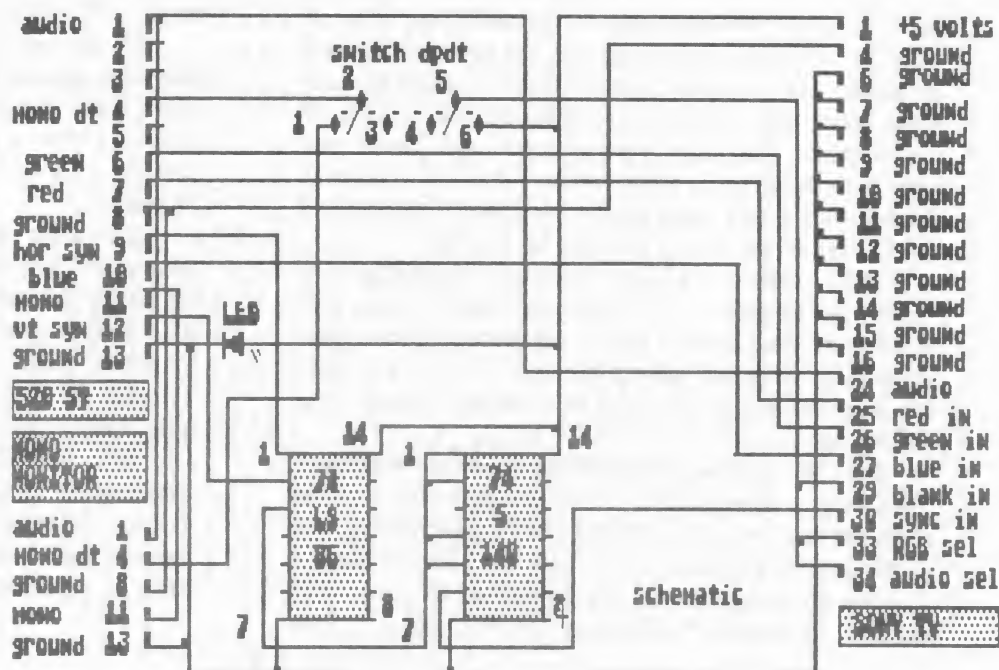
The internal wiring for the adaptor assembly is described in stages. Starting with the Atari 520ST pin connections:

520ST	Adaptor
Monitor Connection	Monochrome Connector
Pin Description	Pin Description
1 Audio out	1 Audio in
8 Ground	8 Ground
11 Monochrome	11 Monochrome
13 Ground	13 Ground

520ST	Adaptor
Monitor Connection	Sony TV Flat Cable Connector
Pin Description	Pin Description
1 Audio out	24 Audio input
6 Green	26 Green input
7 Red	25 Red input
8 Ground	4 Ground
10 Blue	27 Blue input
13 Ground	6-16 Ground

520ST Monitor Connection Pin Description	Adaptor IC 74LS86, EXCLUSIVE-OR Pin Description	Adaptor LED Pin Description	Adaptor Sony TV Flat Cable Connector Pin Description
9 Horizontal sync	1 Gate 1 input	1 Anode side	1 +5 volts
12 Vertical sync	2 Gate 2 input		
13 Ground	7 Ground		
520ST Monitor Connection Pin Description	Adaptor IC 74S140, LINE DRIVER Pin Description	Adaptor Subminiature DPDT Switch Pin Description	Adaptor Sony TV Flat Cable Connector Pin Description
13 Ground	7 Ground	4 Side two top	1 +5 volts
520ST Monitor Connection Pin Description	Adaptor Subminiature DPDT Switch Pin Description	Adaptor Sony TV Flat Cable Conn Pin Description	Adaptor IC 74LS86, EXCLUSIVE-OR Pin Description
4 Monochrome detect	2 Side one center	1 + 5 volts	14 Vcc
520ST Monitor Connector Pin Description	Adaptor LED Pin Description	Adaptor Sony TV Flat Cable Conn Pin Description	Adaptor IC 74S140, LINE DRIVER Pin Description
13 Ground	2 Cathode side	1 +5 volts	14 Vcc
Adaptor IC 74LS86, EXCLUSIVE-OR Pin Description	Adaptor IC 74S140 LINE DRIVER Pin Description	Adaptor Subminiature DPDT Switch Pin Description	Adaptor Sony TV Flat Cable Connector Pin Description
3 Gate 1 output	1,2, Gate 1 inputs 4&5	5 Side two center	29, Fast blanking input 33, RGB/NORMAL mode select &34 Audio select
Adaptor IC 74S140 LINE DRIVER Pin Description	Adaptor Sony TV Flat Cable Connector Pin Description	Adaptor Subminiature DPDT Switch Pin Description	Adaptor Monochrome Connector Pin Description
6 Gate 1 output	30 Composite sync input	3 Side one bottom	4 Monochrome detect

If you are interested in more details, or wish to have a Sony TV converted for your Atari 520ST contact the authors. Note that installation of the 5 volt regulator may void your Sony TV warranties



XE - Practical Software - ST

by Dick Johnson

This is the start of a new monthly column focusing on practical programs. Programs which can make life a or at least some parts of it a little easier. Each column will contain one XE and on ST program of a similar style, reviewing each and comparing them to each other.

I would like to give special thanks to Mike, Brian, and Doug (the boys a User Friendly) without whose help this column would be impossible.

This month we feature Synchron and Electro Calendar, two Appointment calendar programs. Right from the start we should ask what can these programs do which a paper calendar on our desk or hanging on the wall can't. In fact the Electro Calendar even comes with a pocket calendar.

Our XE program is Synchron by Synapse. Right from the start I was misled by the name, thinking it would interface with Synfile somehow, but no such luck.

After booting up the disk you are asked to insert your Data Disk which contains 2 years of data. Synchron always opens with the last month accessed, a convenient feature since the normal XE contains no internal clock. Each date which contains a memo is marked on the calendar. By moving the cursor to any date you may hit RETURN which brings up a the memo screen which is capable of containing 100 lines of 39 characters each, of which 15 lines are viewable at a time with a slider visible on the left side (shades of GEM). Keying in the memo area is much like using a word processor, featuring word wrap and character insertion.

Any word keyed in the memo area can be designated as a key field by entering a (Control K) before the word, which can then be used for scanning or selective printing of memos.

A years calendar can be viewed which will highlight any day which contains a memo. The month can then be selected which will also highlight the days with memos attached. If you have invoked the scan feature, only those days which match the selected key field will be highlighted. The scan ignores upper and lower case making the selection process easier. You can also print memos within a date range and by key field if desired. A sorted list of key fields can also be printed.

Print control is also flexible, specifying line length and margins. The biggest fault I find with Synchron is the lack of a way to automatically move memo information from one year to the next. This is a must for such things as birthdays which do not change from year to year.

Our ST application is Electro Calendar from Soft Logik Corp. After booting up you are presented with the month and year from the internal clock. Fortunately one of the options available is to reset the time and day.

You are presented with the current month along with smaller versions of the previous and next month. Each

day with a memo is highlighted on the calendar but unlike Synchron there is no year overview. Moving about the year is easy, just touch a month name or year with your mouse. Each memo is limited to 7 lines of 38 characters, but you may have as many memos attached to a date as you wish (up to 1,289 on a single density disk). When a date is selected the first line of each memo for that day is displayed, clicking on the displayed line shows the entire memo. A problem I find with entering a memo is that you must go up to the menu bar and select SAVE or SAVE ALL YEARS clicking any where else aborts the menu. I feel the default should be SAVE.

The scan feature can be limited to a date range and scans against all words in the memos. Unfortunately the default date range after entering the program is ways Jan 1 to Dec 31 1985. It should default the the current year at least. Also the scan does not ignore case, this means that to make the scan useful you better stay in upper or lower case. You can also print or show your memos using the scan feature but the memos are listed in the order that they were entered not in date sequence and the date is not indicated during the display, another major flaw.

One nice feature they do have is that memos may be saved for one date or for that date for all years. You can also Print a calendar of any year (does not indicate dates with memos) or print any month (does indicate memos)

The program is unprotected so I tried putting it in a AUTO folder but it locked up. It is promised that when the ACC version becomes available you will be able to exchange it free.

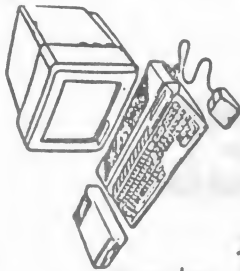
Both programs lack a few feature which I would like to see. Holidays and short memos on the calendar when displaying the Month. A weekday of the month since many events always occur on the same weekday of the week from year to year or month to month, like Labor Day (1st monday of Sept) or the TAIG meeting (last Sunday of each month). Printing a month calendar with short memos.

Of the two programs I feel that much more thought when into the design of Synchron but the lack of a year to year memo feature is a major flaw. As for Electro Calendar, its a mess. This could have been a useful program if a little more time had been taken in getting it ready.

How about public domain? Antic had a calendar program in their Jan 1986 issue by Alfred H. Filskov. It allows for 7 lines of 28 characters for any one date. It also prints any month including the memos on the calendar, which could be very useful as an activity calendar for club events or just to hang up for your own appointments and notes.

Well there you have it. In my opinion the only advantage to be had was the SAVE FOR ALL YEARS option of Electro Calendar, other wise I'll stick to my wall calendar and maybe Alfred's program which could come in handy on occasion.

The STING review



The 5th meeting of STING (formerly STAG) USER'S GROUP was held on Wednesday, March 5th, 1986 at a new location - The Bennett Room in the basement of Dunwoody Technical Institute which looks like it will be our permanent new home. We are booked there through August of this year, thanks to Rick Schildknecht, who also works at Dunwoody, who arranged this new, more centrally located, meeting site.

PrintMaster
Unison World \$39.95
Reviewed by Brian Reynolds

All of you who have been awaiting The Print Shop for the ST are in luck. Unison World has just released their own version called PrintMaster. This program is a Print Shop clone originally designed for IBM and Apple PC's. PrintMaster has all the features of Print Shop with some added extras. The program allows you to create your own greeting cards, signs, banners, stationery, and even calendars.

Using PrintMaster is as easy as using Print Shop, right down to the same key commands. PrintMaster comes with 11 borders, 8 fonts, and 122 pre-drawn icons ready to use, and of course you can draw your own. One added feature of the Graphic Editor mode is the ability to flip the icons vertically or horizontally, or invert them. The Graphic Editor also has a window function which allows you to cut and paste selected parts of a graphic.

Unlike Print Shop, PrintMaster lets you use two different graphics on a sign or banner, and up to four on cards and stationery. The program also allows you to use several different fonts together except in the banner mode. The feature that I liked the most was PrintMaster's print mode. Before printing out your creation PrintMaster displays the finished product on the screen so you can see what it will actually look like on paper. Then, if you are satisfied, you send it to the printer.

The PrintMaster user's guide is not written for the ST but I found that to be no problem since the program almost runs itself. Unison World is currently writing an all purpose manual which will be sent out to all registered owners who request one (when you return the registration card). A reference card listing any differences and a trouble shooting list are also included.

I found this to be an excellent program and well worth the money. It does more than the Print Shop and costs less too. If you have a printer, I would strongly advise you to get this program. PrintMaster will stir your creative juices the way Print Shop did for 8-bit Atari users. On a scale of 1 to 10, I give PrintMaster an 8.

PrintMaster Art Gallery 1
Unison World \$24.95
Offers 140 more graphics to use with PrintMaster.

USER TIPS

If you have a problem getting your fingers centered on the right places on the keyboard, while you are positioning them on the keyboard after using the mouse and while looking at your text to be typed in or at the monitor to see how you are doing, you might find this tip helpful - Place a small drop of clear epoxy cement or colored nail-polish on the "F" and "J" keys, so that you can feel with your fingers when you are centered correctly on the keyboard. (TH)

DOUBLE-SPACING IS POSSIBLE WHEN USING HABA-WRITER - AND HABA-WRITER FILES CAN BE PORTED OVER TO ST-WRITER!!!

A lucky discovery today (3.20.86) allows one to not only copy a HABA-WRITER (HW) file easily to another disk than the one it was originally created on (without having to copy the whole disk) - but one can also get double-spacing between the lines of text! I'll outline the procedure here, and talk about it in more detail at the next meeting: First, to easily copy a HABA-WRITER file, first use HW's SAVE AS feature and give the copy a slightly different name - you can easily change it back to the original name later using SHOW INFO and retyping the name. Second, resave your COPY using the SAVE ASCII feature.

After you close the file and reopen it again (the screen is somewhat goofy right after saving the info into ASCII, and doesn't accurately show what your file now looks like), you will have double-spaced lines of text if your PREFERENCES settings are "NO" for ASCII when you have your HW file loaded into the HABA-WRITER program - and your Epson-configured printer will print out your file as double-spaced text! If you click the PREFERENCES setting back to ASCII, then your file will once again be shown as - BUT NOT print out as - single-spaced text: It remains printable only as double-spaced text because of the extra carriage return symbols that get inserted in the text, as a side product of saving the file as an ASCII file. A drawback is that when your HW file is saved in ASCII, it is stripped of its text-type modes: i.e. all the text is plain text - there is no underlining, boldface type, etc. (that can be cured, see below)

The HW file saved in ASCII can be loaded directly into ST-WRITER (ST-W), and looks perfect on the screen, but it will print funny unless you add the ST-W formatting codes at the top of the screen. After adding these, the file will print out fine with single-spaced lines. No doubt by changing the line spacing command (CONTROL S) to CONTROL S4 at the top of the file, you'll get your HW file printed double-spaced in ST-W, but your ASCII-saved HW file prints out fine in double-spaced text while it is loaded in the HW program too.

ADVANTAGES - One advantage of all this is that you can easily create a HW file - maybe an article for a magazine, and then easily and quickly double-space it for their editor, without having to go through the whole file and insert extra carriage returns at the end of each line! Another advantage is that you could more easily create a file visually using HW. After one has the page laid out well using HW, then one could go back in ST-W and add some underlining and boldface commands after saving and copying the file as an ST-W file. HW files are more fragile than ST-W files - once in a while they will simply disappear, while ST-W files are more durable and won't disappear on you. Printing your HW file in ST-W also lets you use EMPHASIZED DRAFT mode, which is supported by ST-W, but not by HW. Finally, if you have a file that you would like to share with another ST user who does not have HW but does have ST-W, put your file in ASCII for him or her to read, edit, or print. Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be a way to port ST-W files over to HW. (TH)

- Ted Holman -
Acting Secretary

HOW TO REACH YOUR NEW USER-GROUP VOLUNTEER OFFICERS:

Tom Tolstead: 347-3389 (leave a message for him to return your call)

Brian Reynolds: 788-8181 (work # days at User Friendly)

Jim Schulz: 537-5442

Ted Holman: no home phone, so write me a note at:
2818 East 31 St. #4
Mpls. 55406

or, if necessary, call me at work at:
721-1604

JOINING STING:

If you would like to join STING, the dues for this year are 10 dollars, and should be sent to Brian Reynolds. Members who would like to receive their copy of THE STING REVIEW ahead of the meeting (recommended so that you will be apprised in advance of what will be covered at the next meeting, as well as be advised of last minute changes, please send me at least 3 self-addressed-stamped envelopes and include my name and address written on the upper left-hand corner of the envelope (that saves me a lot of addressing!) 10 envelopes to cover the rest of the year would be ideal.

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TRAMIEL NEWS FROM "ATARI RESURGENCE"
PANEL AT WEST COAST COMPUTER FAIRE
BY NAT FRIEDLAND, ANTIC EDITOR 4/10/86

"The Atari Resurgence," a panel organized by the San Leandro Computer Club, was a highlight of the West Coast Computer Faire. The April 6 panelists were Atari Corp. president Sam Tramiel, Atari Software Development Vice President Leonard Tramiel, Antic Publisher James Capparell, Bill Wilkinson of Optimized Systems Software and Antic Writer-Award Winner Matthew Ratcliff. The moderator was Antic Contributing Editor David Small, who also demonstrated his plug-in Macintosh ST cartridge at the Faire.

One of first questions from the standing-room-only audience (which included Byte columnist Jerry Pournelle) was about Atari's commitment to the 8-bit product line. The Tramiels stated flatly that Atari would have a major commitment to the 8-bit computer business for "a long time to come." Sam Tramiel specified several breakthrough 8-bit developments coming later this year.

These developments include:

- A plug-in 80-column card including a parallel printer interface, due this summer at a price of \$79.
- Memory chip expansions such as Apple is preparing for the IIe.
- 500K memory 3.5-inch disk drives for the 8-bit line, with a new Disk Operating System being written by Optimized Systems Software.
- New national mass-marketer distribution agreements -- the first one signed with Toys R Us -- that will also greatly improve the availability of third-party Atari software.

To this discussion, James Capparell added that Antic's recent experience shows the popularity of the new ST line is also bringing about a resurgence of interest in the 8-bit Ataris.

COMPOSITE ST

Sam Tramiel stated that the 1040ST and the newer 520ST support composite color monitors as well as RGB monitors. He said that Atari hopes to be running Lotus 123 on their IBM PC expansion box at COMDEX next month. The Atari 20 megabyte hard disk is just going into production, he added.

Leonard Tramiel said that major improvements are underway in a revised ST BASIC and also in the GEM tools.

Sam Tramiel said that the long-awaited AMIE sound/speech chip is "almost alive and well" after extensive re-engineering.

A review of the Supra 10 MegaByte Harddrive.
by Camel Barns

The Supra 10 meg harddrive for the 8 bit Atari computers is very impressive for a person who is used to the slow disk access of the Atari 1050 drive. Take 110 1050 drives and turbocharge them, and you have the Supra harddrive. I have the drive running on our BBS at this time and I am still amazed everytime I boot the BBS program. It used to take up to 5 minutes to save and reload the BBS program, I can now do it in under 20 seconds. It erases the old version, and saves the new version in approximately 10 seconds and reloads it in about the same amount of time.

The Supra harddrive can be used with Mydos 4.0 or the latest version of SpartaDos, which I believe is 3.2D. Supra supplies you with Mydos 4.0 on a 5 1/4" disk. I'll get my complaints out of the way right off the bat, since the biggest problem I had with it was getting it set up and formatted.

First off the documentation tells you to plug the 50 pin edge connector into the interface with the label 'TOP' facing upwards and visible, and of course my connector didn't have a label. So I read further, "If there is no label, pin 1 goes towards the rear of the interface". I inspected the connector closely, and you guessed it, my connector did not have ANY pins marked. After exhausting all other resources, I took the cover off the drive and checked the PC board and found that it was numbered and went from there. I wasn't the only 'lucky' one to get a system that wasn't marked properly, I talked to a Sysop in Georgia who had the same problem, so it wasn't an isolated case.

So now I have everything plugged together and I throw the power to it. Everything seems fine except the computer doesn't know that the harddrive is connected. I examined the interface connector and noticed it didn't appear to be plugged all the way in and I pushed on it a little harder, It wouldn't budge. I pulled the thing apart and found that the cover of the interface had not been cut over far enough to allow the connector to plug all the way into the interface. I had to remove the back cover of the connector in order to get it all the way in. Basically those were the only two problems I have found with the drive. If desk space is a problem you may want to note that with the 130XE you will need about 10-1/2 inches of space behind the computer. With the 800XL you will need about 8-1/2".

The reason for the difference between the two is that in order to run it on the 130XE you need an adapter (\$15.00) that plugs into both the cartridge slot and the ECI port. Your cartridge then plugs into the top of the adapter. With the 800XL the interface plugs directly into the Parallel

Port. The harddrive, (Which is approx. 4"x6"x13") then plugs into the right side of the interface, and there is a parallel printer port on the left side.

Once you get all the hardware connections made, you boot up your DOS on a floppy drive which has to be set up as drive 2. When you turn the computer on, you hold the HELP key down, this causes the computer to boot off of the second drive. You go to DOS Load the format program, it asks you a few questions, you answer them using the instruction manual, you get the standard warning ie., 'You are about to erase ALL your data, are you SURE you want to do this?' Answering in the affirmative, it goes about it's business of formatting, which can take up to 20 minutes. It only took about 14 minutes when I formatted mine. You then go through and Initialize the drive, again following the instructions.

What you end up with is 2 drives, D1: and D3:, D1: being the equivalent of a single or double density (Whichever you choose) drive. D3: is the drive with all the storage space, about 37,000 double density sectors. You have to do some figuring to come up with that number, because Mydos reports it as U000 Free Sectors. You take the Decimal code of the first character, subtract 48 and then multiply that by 1000, and then add the last three numbers. Simple right?

If you won't always be booting off of the second drive you have to write your DOS files to D1:. You can now start filling the harddrive. But what happens if you want to have more than 64 files in the harddrive? (Which will probably be the case) Well Mydos 4.0 allows you to create Sub-Directories, each 8 sectors long, then in the subdirectories you can put more files! You can put sub-directories in your sub-directories, so you are not limited by the number of files the directories can handle. All these sub-directories can cause problems if you are running a BBS, alot of changes will have to be made to your program in order to get it to access all the files in the drive.

If 37,000 sectors isn't enough for you, you can add another harddrive, which would be D4:. The second harddrive would be considerably cheaper because you only need the drive itself and a larger power supply. The controller is already setup for another drive.

There may be some compatibility problems if using the 130XE. I tried running the XE version of Paperclip with the harddrive connected, and the program would load partway and then inform me that I could only run it on an XE. I unplugged the harddrive and Paperclip worked perfectly. If this happens with Paperclip it could also happen with other programs written exclusively for the XE. Other than that everything works just fine. You can NOTE and POINT using the harddrive just the same as using a floppy. You are given a few more XIO commands for creating sub-directories and picking sub-directories. Once a sub-directory is picked using XIO 41, all references to D: will be to the PICKED directory.

All in all I am VERY happy with the harddrive, some say it is noisy but I have been running a BBS for over a year now and maybe I'm used to the noise of drives running and printers printing, and to me the noise doesn't seem too bad. Like any major purchase and I would consider \$899+tax a major purchase, do as much checking on the product as possible before buying. If any one has any questions about the harddrive, you can leave a message on my BBS and I will be glad to answer you. The Atari Barn BBS (612)521-5398.

Oh yes, and like usual I noticed that Supra is now selling the drives for \$799.

Disk Of The Month by David Stengel

As you may have noticed, the transition between disk librarians has been a little shakey (actually more than a little shakey, but...), and will continue to be so for a few months to come, but if you will be so kind to bear with me, hopefully, all will turn out fine in the end.

As I promised, this month's disk is a utilities disk with an adventure on the back for all you gamers who are easily bored with dull extensive utility files. I am really no authority on utilities, or games for that matter, but still I compiled a suitable list of halfway decent public domain utilities. Please do not expect copywrite quality material, after all it's hard enough finding these utilities without having to worry whether or not it's of the finest quality, or the newest thing in the private sector. Here is a list of files on this month's disk (finally):

FILEPRNT	COLCHEK
ALTERDOS	BASICDOS
MATTEDIT	RPMTST
CONVERT	DECIDMP
MEMDUMP	LLIST
ERRTRAP	POLYCOPY
REPAIR15	(bianary)

This is side one. I appologize if any of these happen to be "The Incredible Reaccuring Files," but I have still to recieve a copy of the entire disk library list.

There was much questioning as to the contents of last month's disk. It is a disk of games (Binary games on the front, and Basic games on the back). Here is a list of the files:

Side #1	Side #2
AMBUSH .OBJ	CRAZYB .BAS
FLIPPER .OBJ	MINDBST .BAS
LASER .OBJ	KOOKEY .BAS
PLANETDF.OBJ	ACROBAT .BAS
MONEY .OBJ	BIFFDRP .BAS
BCTERION.OBJ	JACKPOT .BAS
TRACKS .OBJ	MUNCH .BAS
TRACER .OBJ	
FILLUP .OBJ	
MYRAPEDE.OBJ	
BUDDHA .OBJ	

Things are getting rather skimpy file-wise, and I've used just about all my resources. So, submissions to the Disk Of The Month would be much appreciated. In fact we'd appreciate so much that we'll give a copy of the most recent D.O.M. So, write an article or submit a program, and support your club officials.

Cost of this month's disk: \$6.00

Notes from the Sysop

Not much is happening on the BBS. The big news is that we added a 1050 drive, this gives us a little over 4,200 sectors. This seems very small when compared to the Barn's Supra 10 meg, but we still have a lot of storage.

The present principle system component configuration is:

- 2 Percom DD drives
- 1 810 SD drive
- 1 1050 SD drive
- 1 Signalman Express modem
- 1 130 XE

Online currently there are many binary games, a few utilities, Express 2.1, which will drive both the Atari 1030 modem and the Atari XM301 modem. A very new addition is Express 850. This is a conversion of the 1030 Express program for modems that use the 850 interface. If you are into telecommunications, it is well worth looking into.

Taig/Space BBS (612) 473-2897

At the last meeting I asked if we were spending too much time on the ST and was met with a resounding YES, therefore its back to basics. The meeting will concentrate on the 8 bit line. Major announcements concerning the ST will be reported but if your interest lie in that direction you should attend one the the local ST meetings. MAST 3rd friday of each month at the Falcon Heights Community Center or STING the 1st wednesday of each month at Dunwoody Institute. The newsletter will continue to report both 8 & 16 bit news.

Its time to start thinking about elections again. All offices are available and I'm declining President this year, as I feel that it should fall to someone who is staying with the 8 bit line and can project their energy in that direction for the good of the club. I will be available in some other role however.

Todd Burkey will be demoing Diskedit, Ultracopy, Softbase & Cartdisk + and going into detail about Atari Disk formats. Come on down and learn about the secrets of the Atari disk drive.

SPACE has offered to reink ribbons (Epson 80 style and reel to reel) for \$1 per ribbon. They will be picked up at the TAIG meeting and returned the following month. Ribbons must be in a plastic bag or a box and labeled with your name and phone number.

News from Hanover: the long awaited 80 column adapter for the XL and XE computers has been promised again. This time as a case which will plug into the serial port. Until then the ACE80 cartridge is the only reasonable priced option available for all 8 bit computers.

Supra was there showing a 20 mega byte hard drive for \$1000, more expensive than Atari's but reported to be 3 times faster. Also a 60 mega byte prototype and talk of a streaming tape backup.

Miracle Technology Ltd. of England was showing a new terminal program for the 8 bit called Multi-viewterm/Datatari capable of accessing graphic-based videotext and telex. The programs comes with a special interface with plugs for several different modems.

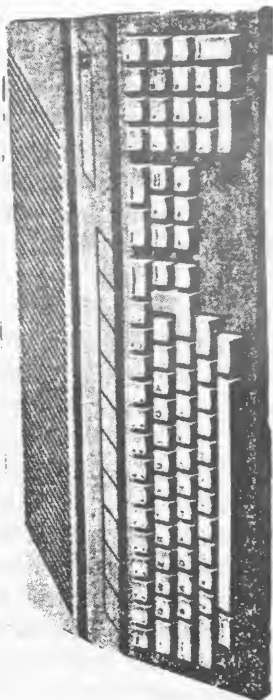
The MS-DOS box is in the final stages of development. It will contain a 8088 microprocessor and 8087 math co-processor, it will enable the ST to run 90% of the IBM-PC software at speeds greater than the IBM, but will not be able to run graphic-based software such as Lotus 1-2-3 until the final BIOS routines are written. The price will be around \$300. With the announced IBM laptop using the 3 1/2 floppys we most likely wouldn't have to add a 5 1/4 drive to the system.

An major Atari exhibition has been held in London with 50 Atari booths unveiling over 100 new products, 2/3 of them aimed at the 8 bit machine. Hopefully these products will soon begin to appear in the US.

If you don't have your ST ROMs yet I'm afraid you may be in for a shock. Atari figures everyone should have their's by now and they have met there obligations. Therefore the replacement cost has jump to around \$100 a set now. If you haven't got your chips, I'd call Wizards Work or User Friendly and check it out.

RUMORS: There's talk of the 3.5 drive again for the 8 bit, OSS is working on the operating system for it. Bunderbund has said they will not be producing for the ST, this may be because Print Master beat them to the punch with a Print Shop look alike at a price lower than what they charge for the other lines. There's a RAMBO project underway to upgrade the 130XE to 300K.

Power without the price.



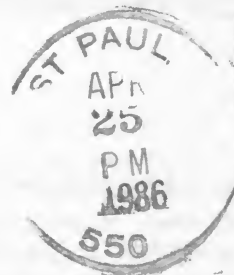
Atari 520ST & Color Printer
Package includes The popular Atari 520ST computer and a Canon ink jet color printer. Also includes monitor, disk drive, and cables.
\$1145.00

Atari 520ST & Dot Matrix Printer
Package includes the Atari 520ST computer and an Epson LX80 dot matrix printer. Also includes monitor, disk drive, and cables.
\$1095.00

Each ST package sold also includes 5 software titles, including Megaroids and Neochrome.

Twin Cities Atari Interest Group.
3342 Humboldt Ave. N.
Minneapolis Minn 55412

Next TAIG meeting
Sunday, April 27th 7PM
at
St. Louis Park Rec. Center
5005 West 36th Street
St. Louis Park, Mn



Wizard's Work 
your home computer center
Post Haste Square, County Rd 18 & 36th Ave No.
New Hope (North Side of Bldg)
545-2136